

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION establishing the Shelter Oversight and Pet
2 Overpopulation Task Force.

3 WHEREAS, Kentucky has 90 counties with animal shelters, and each of Kentucky's
4 120 counties are required by statute to have an animal control officer in accordance with
5 KRS 258.119; and

6 WHEREAS, since 2004, Kentucky has required each county to have a shelter or a
7 contract with an organization to provide a shelter, but there are only minimum statutory
8 standards for county animal shelters; and

9 WHEREAS, a recent study conducted by the University of Kentucky Diagnostic
10 Laboratory of all county animal shelters found approximately 49 percent of those shelters
11 to be out of compliance with state law; and

12 WHEREAS, a lack of access to and the high cost of spay and neuter surgery are
13 major impediments to pet population control, and state and local governments are unable
14 to provide the necessary funds to finance an effective spay and neuter program; and

15 WHEREAS, companion animal overpopulation contributes to large numbers of
16 stray and abandoned animals for which counties must use taxpayer funds for their care
17 and disposal; and

18 WHEREAS, currently state law does not authorize any government agency to
19 oversee and correct the failure of certain county shelters to meet the statutory minimum
20 standards; and

21 WHEREAS, state law does not require animal control officers to train for their
22 positions, and the lack of training contributes to poor quality of animal care; and

23 WHEREAS, the Kentucky shelter standards described in KRS 258.119 require
24 review and possible amendment to adequately inform local officials of their sheltering
25 responsibilities; and

26 WHEREAS, a government entity should be authorized to inspect Kentucky's county
27 animal shelters and enforce the statutory shelter standards; and

1 WHEREAS, the General Assembly finds that convening a task force of various
2 stakeholder groups and representatives of state and local government is necessary and
3 appropriate to produce consensus legislative recommendations for addressing the proper
4 oversight and regulation of county shelters, the training of animal control officers, the
5 spaying and neutering of companion animals before release from possession of the
6 county's animal shelter or upon request of pet owners, and the funding to expand access
7 for sterilization and sheltering services in the Commonwealth;

8 NOW, THEREFORE,

9 *Be it resolved by the House of Representatives of the General Assembly of the*
10 *Commonwealth of Kentucky, the Senate concurring therein:*

11 ➔Section 1. The Shelter Oversight and Pet Overpopulation Task Force is hereby
12 created to study and develop consensus legislative recommendations to address the
13 current state of county shelters in the Commonwealth, to formulate standards and
14 processes for better regulation of county shelters, and to advocate and find methods to
15 fund spay and neuter options for pets across the state.

16 ➔Section 2. The Shelter Oversight and Pet Overpopulation Task Force shall be
17 composed of the following members with final membership of the task force being
18 subject to the consideration and approval of the Legislative Research Commission:

19 (1) The chair of the House Standing Committee on Health and Family Services,
20 who shall serve as co-chair;

21 (2) The chair of the Senate Standing Committee on Health and Welfare, who shall
22 serve as co-chair;

23 (3) One representative of the Kentucky Animal Care and Control Association;

24 (4) The commissioner of the Kentucky Department of Public Health;

25 (5) The Kentucky State Veterinarian;

26 (6) The president of the Kentucky Veterinary Medical Association;

27 (7) One representative of the Kentucky League of Cities;

1 (8) One representative of the Kentucky Association of Counties or the Kentucky
2 County Judge/Executive Association selected upon agreement of the co-chairs;

3 (9) One representative from the University of Kentucky Diagnostic Laboratory;

4 (10) The president of the Bluegrass Animal Welfare Advocacy Group, Inc; and

5 (11) One representative of a private, nonprofit 501(c)(3) animal rescue
6 organization incorporated in Kentucky or a private, nonprofit 502(c)(3) organization that
7 contracts with at least one Kentucky county to provide sheltering services to be selected
8 upon agreement of the co-chairs.

9 ➔Section 3. The task force shall meet monthly during the 2017 Interim and shall
10 submit a report to the appropriate legislative committee or committees by December 1,
11 2017. The report shall, at a minimum, include:

12 (1) A detailed analysis of Kentucky animal shelter standards and pet
13 overpopulation and access to, cost of, and funding for spay and neuter services;

14 (2) Recommendations for the periodic inspection of Kentucky county shelters and
15 enforcement of Kentucky animal shelter standards; and

16 (3) Identification of potential funding sources for Kentucky county animal
17 shelters for spay and neuter programs, shelter services appropriate for animal welfare, and
18 ways to reduce shelter intake and pet overpopulation.

19 ➔Section 4. Provisions of this Concurrent Resolution notwithstanding, the
20 Legislative Research Commission shall have the authority to alternatively assign the
21 issues identified herein to an interim joint committee or subcommittee thereof and to
22 designate a study completion date.